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General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Item 59 of the preliminary list*
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by General Assembly resolution 66/85 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities made available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/67/50.

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I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI), offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme has been included in successive editions of the guide entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions,[1] the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized.[2] The present report, which covers the period from 8 March 2011 to 16 March 2012, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 66/85.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 60 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant General Assembly resolutions:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State has also offered scholarships:

Holy See.

[1] The most recent resolution adopted by the General Assembly on this question is resolution 66/85.

[2] The most recent report is contained in document A/66/68.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Argentina

7. In a note verbale dated 8 February 2012, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations requested that the following paragraphs be included in the present report:

> The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 2065 (XX) and in subsequent resolutions, and the Special Committee on decolonization, have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation involving a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have established that the way to put an end to that situation is the peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute, and have requested both Governments to continue without delay the bilateral negotiations recommended by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.
>
> Despite the illegal British occupation, the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands are part of the Argentine national territory, and their inhabitants therefore have equality of access with the rest of the Argentine population to the Argentine public education system. This includes free education at the primary, secondary and tertiary/university levels, as well as the benefits of the national scholarship programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Republic.

New Zealand

8. In a note verbale dated 22 February 2012, the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> New Zealand offers one scholarship each year to Tokelau through the New Zealand Pacific Scholarships scheme, as part of the Joint Commitment for Development. The New Zealand Pacific Scholarships scheme recognizes the very close personal, cultural and economic ties that New Zealand enjoys with Pacific countries. A particular focus of the scheme is to increase the number of young students and high academic achievers studying in New Zealand and to build a new generation of Pacific leadership with strong links to New Zealand.
>
> Tokelau offers regional scholarships to its students through funding supplied as budget support by the New Zealand Aid Programme to Tokelau. As New Zealand citizens, Tokelauans are also eligible for a range of domestic scholarships as well as Government-subsidized access to New Zealand educational facilities.
>
> New Zealand offers 14 short-term training awards to the people of New Caledonia. These awards assist people in the workforce to gain knowledge and skills that will help the development of their home country. They play an important and growing role in addressing the human resource and development needs of developing countries. Short-term training awards are funded by the New Zealand Government's international aid and development programme.

III. Applications made through the United Nations

9. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

10. From 8 March 2011 to 16 March 2012, no requests for information on the availability of scholarships were received by the Secretariat.

IV. Conclusion

11. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Item 134 of the preliminary list*
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Multi-year payment plans

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 57/4 B, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Contributions concerning multi-year payment plans, and in its resolutions 58/1 B, 59/1 B, 60/237, 61/237 and 64/248 it reaffirmed that endorsement. In that connection, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to provide information on the submission of such plans to the Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions. It also recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions, on the status of the payment plans of Member States as at 31 December each year. The present report is submitted in compliance with those requests and provides information on payment plans and schedules submitted earlier by Liberia and Sao Tome and Principe and on the status of implementation of those plans as at 31 December 2011.

The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and encourage Member States with significant arrears in contributions to consider submitting a multi-year payment plan.

* A/67/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/243 A, the General Assembly recognized that multi-year payment plans, subject to careful formulation, could be helpful in allowing Member States to demonstrate their commitment under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations to pay their arrears, thereby facilitating the consideration of applications for exemption by the Committee on Contributions, and requested the Secretary-General to propose guidelines for such multi-year payment plans through the Committee on Contributions.

2. After considering the report of the Secretary-General on mu' year payment plans (A/57/65) at its sixty-second session, in 2002 (see A/57/1., chap. IV.A, paras. 17-23), the Committee on Contributions agreed that Member States should be encouraged to submit such plans, which constitute a useful tool for reducing their unpaid assessed contributions and a way for them to demonstrate their commitment to meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations. The Committee recognized in that regard that due consideration should be given to the economic position of Member States, as not all of them might be in a position to submit such plans, and recommended that multi-year payment plans should remain voluntary and should not be automatically linked to other measures.

3. The Committee also recommended that Member States considering a multi-year payment plan should submit such plans to the Secretary-General for the information of other Member States and be encouraged to consult the Secretariat for advice in their preparation. In that context, it was suggested that the plans of Member States should:

(a) Provide for annual payment of current-year assessments and a part of their arrears;

(b) Where possible, generally provide for the elimination of arrears within a period of up to six years.

4. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to provide information on the submission of payment plans to the General Assembly, through the Committee, and that the Secretary-General also be requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly, through the Committee, on the status of such plans as at 31 December each year.

5. The Committee also recommended that, for those Member States that were in a position to submit a payment plan, the Committee and the General Assembly should take the submission of a plan and its status of implementation into account as one factor when they considered requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter.

6. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 57/4 B, the General Assembly endorsed the above conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee. In its resolutions 58/1 B, 59/1 B, 60/237, 61/237 and 64/248, the Assembly reaffirmed paragraph 1 of resolution 57/4 B. Accordingly, the Secretary-General has submitted annual reports on multi-year payment plans[1] to the Assembly since its fifty-eighth session, when the first one was considered.

[1] A/58/63, A/59/67, A/60/66, A/61/68, A/62/70, A/63/68, A/64/68, A/65/65 and A/66/69.

II. Submission of multi-year payment plans

7. Payment plans or schedules were submitted by Georgia in 2003 (its fourth), Iraq in 2005 (its first), Liberia in 2006 (its second), the Republic of Moldova in 2001 (its third), the Niger in 2004 (its first), Sao Tome and Principe in 2002 (its first) and Tajikistan in 2000 (its first).

8. Five of these Member States have fully implemented their payment plans. Tajikistan fully paid its arrears during the first half of 2009, thereby resulting in the full implementation of its plan in advance of the deadline dates set out in the seventh annual report. Georgia and the Niger fully paid their arrears during the first half of 2007, thereby resulting in full implementation of their plans in advance of the deadline dates specified in the fifth annual report. The schedule last proposed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, as outlined in the fourth annual report, was fully implemented in 2005. A lump-sum payment by Iraq in 2005 also resulted in the full implementation of its plan in advance of the deadline dates specified in the fourth annual report.

9. In its resolution 64/248, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the considerable efforts undertaken by those Member States that fully implemented their multi-year payment plans. The Assembly also encouraged Member States in arrears with their assessed contributions to the United Nations to consider submitting multi-year payment plans.

10. In an announcement concerning the seventy-second session of the Committee on Contributions, to be included in the *Journal of the United Nations* from 1 February to 18 May 2012, the Secretariat has invited Member States intending to submit a multi-year payment plan to contact the Secretary of the Committee for further information. In addition, in the note issued pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 60/237 concerning the application of Article 19 of the Charter, attention was drawn to the provisions of resolution 57/4 B. Should any other payment plans be submitted, related information will be provided in an addendum to the present report or in the report of the Committee to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

11. For the purposes of the present report, payments are taken to include cash payments by the Member States concerned, together with the application of any credits to their accounts arising during the period concerned.

Liberia

12. In a letter dated 12 July 2005, the National Transitional Government of Liberia submitted a payment schedule by which it proposed to make a contribution in the amount of $50,000 every two months, beginning in October 2005. In a letter dated 19 May 2006, the Government of Liberia submitted a revised payment plan taking into account the current level of national revenues and priorities. The new plan called for quarterly payments starting in June 2006. The payment schedules are as follows:

(United States dollars)

	Schedule proposed in	
	2005	*2006*
2005	100 000	—
2006	[a]	150 000
2007	[a]	[b]

[a] Payment of $50,000 every two months beginning in October 2005.
[b] Payment proposals to be submitted annually.

13. In the letter transmitting the payment plan of 19 May 2006, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations indicated that the Permanent Mission would submit a revised payment plan for 2007 in January 2007. At the sixty-seventh session of the Committee, a representative of Liberia informed the Committee that a revised multi-year payment plan would be submitted beginning in July 2007. Subsequently, a representative of Liberia informed the Committee, at its sixty-ninth session, that the Government would continue to make the necessary payments under its multi-year payment plan.

Sao Tome and Principe

14. Under cover of his letter of 17 May 2002 addressed to the President of the General Assembly, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations submitted the calendar of future payments as follows:

(United States dollars)

	Payment
2002	27 237
2003	42 237
2004	59 237
2005	74 237
2006	89 237
2007	114 237
2008	134 237
2009	153 752

15. The plan submitted by Sao Tome and Principe had a duration of eight years, covering the period from 2002 to 2009, and, if fully implemented, would involve payments totalling $694,411.

III. Status of payment plans of Member States as at 31 December 2011

16. The status of implementation of the most recent payment plans submitted by Liberia and Sao Tome and Principe as at 31 December 2011 is summarized in the

table on the status of payment plans. The plans proposed by Georgia, Iraq, the Republic of Moldova, the Niger and Tajikistan have been excluded, as those Member States have made the payments envisaged in their payment plans and no longer fall under the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter.

Status of payment plans as at 31 December 2011

(United States dollars)

	Payment plan	*Assessments as at 31 December*	*Payments/credits*	*Outstanding as at 31 December*[a]
Liberia				
1999				1 147 524
2000		31 506	70 192	1 108 838
2001		16 166	630	1 124 374
2002		17 137	5 465	1 136 046
2003		17 124	1 636	1 151 534
2004		20 932	2 899	1 169 567
2005		24 264	202	1 193 629
2006	150 000	23 024	100 453	1 116 200
2007		32 074	100 660	1 047 614
2008		30 943	200 323	878 234
2009		35 400	150 633	763 001
2010		35 548	399 906	398 643
2011		37 034	200 506	235 171
Sao Tome and Principe				
1999				570 783
2000		13 543	48	584 278
2001		14 254	157	598 375
2002	27 237	15 723	29 146	584 952
2003	42 237	17 124	929	601 147
2004	59 237	20 932	1 559	620 520
2005	74 237	24 264	202	644 582
2006	89 237	23 024	453	667 153
2007	114 237	32 074	810	698 417
2008	134 237	30 943	473	728 887
2009	153 752	35 400	682	763 605
2010		35 548	356	798 797
2011		37 034	506	835 325

[a] Excludes capital master plan reserve.

17. For Liberia, payments and credits during the period from 2006 to 2011 totalled $1,152,481. The outstanding assessed contributions for Liberia at 31 December 2011 amounted to $235,171.

18. Payments by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe have fallen below the level foreseen for the period from 2002 to 2009 in its schedule of payments. Payments and credits totalling $34,254 were applied during that period, compared with the anticipated payments totalling $694,411 for those years set out in its schedule. Credits amounting to $356 and $506 were applied in 2010 and 2011 respectively. The outstanding assessed contributions of Sao Tome and Principe at 31 December 2011 amounted to $835,325.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

19. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and encourage Member States with significant arrears in contributions to consider submitting a multi-year payment plan.**

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General Assembly

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28 March 2012

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Sixty-seventh session
Item 111 (d) of the preliminary list*
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 27 March 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly and has the honour to inform him that the Government of Japan has decided to present its candidature to membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2013-2015 at the elections to be held in 2012 in New York. The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations would be grateful if the present note verbale, with its annex, could be included in the final document to be produced for the forthcoming elections, and would also appreciate it if it could be circulated among the Member States.

Japan looks forward to continuing to play an active role, in concert with other States, in the Human Rights Council, which is responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard, the Government of Japan has the honour to submit a set of pledges and commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

* A/67/50.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 27 March 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Japan to the Human Rights Council, 2013-2015

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

Basic human rights policies of Japan

1. Upholding the highest standards of human rights enshrined and guaranteed in the Constitution of 1947, Japan has consolidated its democratic political system and has developed policies for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as universal values.

2. Japan firmly believes that the promotion and protection of human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community. It is therefore committed to addressing grave violations of human rights. Japan believes that the culture, religion, history and traditions of each country must be taken into account when addressing human rights issues, and will seek to achieve progress through dialogue and cooperation based on an approach that is tailored to meet the specific aspects of the country, region or theme concerned.

International commitments and pledges for the promotion and protection of human rights

Conclusion and implementation of the international human rights instruments

3. Japan has concluded the international human rights instruments listed below and will continue to make the utmost effort to implement its obligations. Japan will duly follow up on the recommendations it has received in order to fulfil its commitments under the treaties and work in cooperation with the treaty bodies:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1979)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1979)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1995)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1985)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1994) and its two Optional Protocols (2004 and 2005)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1999)
- Geneva Conventions of 1949 (1953) and their first and second additional Protocols of 1977 (2004)
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1981) and its Protocol (1982)

- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (2009)

4. In 2007, Japan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is now working towards its early conclusion.

5. Japan is giving serious consideration to the individual communications procedure.

6. Japan is working towards the early conclusion of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction with a view to protecting the best interests of children.

Activities of the Human Rights Council

7. Japan will continue to be actively engaged in the activities of the Human Rights Council, including the universal periodic review, so as to promote the improvement of human rights situations in various countries and regions. During its continuous membership in the Council from its establishment to 2011, Japan has taken an active role in the discussions of the Council and in the adoption of its resolutions.

8. Japan has promoted international initiatives to eliminate discrimination and support marginalized groups. For example, Japan submitted a draft resolution on persons with leprosy which was adopted by consensus in September 2010 (Council resolution 15/10).

9. Japan has taken an active role in the review of the Human Rights Council. Japan remains committed to improving the work and functioning of the Council so as to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness.

10. Japan sincerely took note of the outcome of its own universal periodic review of May 2008, and in March 2011 voluntarily published the status of the follow-up to the recommendations it accepted.

Cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures mechanisms

11. Japan will continue its full cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, her Office and special procedures mechanisms. Japan has extended an official standing invitation to all thematic mandate holders, in view of their important roles.

Contribution to the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council

12. Japan will continue to participate actively in discussions on promoting human rights in the General Assembly, including through submitting draft resolutions to the Third Committee. Japan will steadily continue to promote the Security Council's policy agenda for the protection of civilians in armed conflict, inter alia, the protection and empowerment of women and children.

Promoting human rights through bilateral cooperation

13. As stated above, Japan will continue to attach great importance to dialogue and cooperation that is based on mutual understanding and respect. Japan has held

regular bilateral dialogues and consultations on human rights with the Governments of more than 10 countries. Japan will continue to promote democratization as well as protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in line with its human rights policy concerning Official Development Assistance (ODA). In particular, Japan will focus on providing support to vulnerable groups such as children and persons with disabilities and to protect their human rights. In line with its Initiative on Gender and Development announced in 2005, Japan continues to ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into all sections and every stage of ODA processes.

Financial assistance

14. In 2009, Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements reached $354.45 million for health and welfare, $1,870.75 million for gender equality and $95.94 million for peacebuilding. In fiscal year 2009, disbursements for measures pertaining to persons with disabilities amounted to $1,687.46 million.

15. Japan continues to support human rights activities of United Nations organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNICEF and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). In fiscal year 2010, Japan contributed approximately $5 million to UN-Women. Japan, as the top Asian donor to OHCHR, will continue to support its activities including by making voluntary contributions.

Promoting human rights in Japan

16. In line with the obligations stipulated in the international human rights instruments to which Japan is a party, all relevant Government agencies continue to promote and protect human rights in various fields within Japan. Japan will follow up on the recommendations of the universal periodic review, which it accepted in 2008, and recommendations it has received from human rights treaty bodies. Japan will continue to enhance its dialogue with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and to implement the policies and measures in the areas described below in order to enhance the protection of vulnerable groups.

Gender equality

17. In December 2010, the Cabinet adopted the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality, towards the realization of a gender-equal society. It is an effective action plan that consists of 15 priority fields and 82 performance objectives. Japan aims to increase the representation of women in leadership positions to at least 30 per cent by 2020 through specific "positive actions".

Combating trafficking in persons

18. Japan continues to implement domestic measures and pursue international cooperation in this area. Japan revised its existing action plan and formulated Japan's 2009 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in December 2009.

Rights of the child

19. Japan will continue to implement the Comprehensive Measures to Eliminate Child Pornography adopted in 2010. Japan has reviewed the existing measures and introduced new laws such as the revised Child Welfare Law (2008) and the revised Civil Code (2011) and will steadily enhance various measures such as those against child abuse.

Indigenous peoples

20. Japan will continue to promote comprehensive and effective policy measures for the Ainu people, taking their views into consideration through various channels, inter alia, the Council for Ainu Policy Promotion with the participation of Ainu representatives.